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REVIEWS AND NOTES.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE BOSTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—1913.

Commercial organizations in the larger cities are more and more seeking out and advertising every commercial and industrial advantage which their city affords. To do this intelligently and comprehensively statistics showing the city's activities are necessary, and trade bodies are making it a practice to publish such figures. One of the most recent and complete publications of this nature is the Annual Statistical Report of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, 1913.

This report is a neatly bound volume of about 100 pages and although the tables are not numbered, making reference to them difficult, their well-arranged headings and rulings add to the clearness of the book.

Statistical exhibits of three general classes appear in this report. Approximately one third of the material is devoted to a presentation of the facilities for, and the extent of sea-going trade through the Port of Boston, or the District of Massachusetts as it is henceforth to be called. A second short section contains tables showing bank clearings, property valuations, railroad operations, etc. The remainder of the book is given over to tabular material presenting the volume, price, and movement of produce, meats, and similar commodities in the Boston market.

The material is largely assembled from other reports rather than being an original compilation and is of the character commonly presented in the statistical reports of such bodies. As far as the inclusion of material is concerned, the report covers the field in a fairly thorough manner. Nevertheless, like so many similar publications, the book seems to have suffered somewhat from lack of organization and point.

The data describing the activities of Boston as a shipping centre are of especial interest at present since Boston is fully awake to her port development and the growth of foreign trade through that district. This material, however, would be of greater value if it included the corresponding figures for other leading ports, as well as for the United States as a whole. Only by the inclusion of such a background, against which to measure the present status of the port, can the trend and the comparative volume of its trade be shown. As a single illustration, importations of mahogany have fallen off enormously in that district in recent years and yet the report does not show whether there has been a similar decline in importations of this commodity at other Atlantic ports.

Again, Boston's position as a world port would be more clearly shown if the foreign countries with which she exchanges commodities were given in the list of "Imports and Exports from Boston in Detail." This would also add value to the list for persons interested in specific commodities.

In connection with such a rapidly-growing port, information in regard to its physical equipment might well be added. In this connection the length of the waterfront, increasing wharfage, etc., would be of interest.

The three or four pages showing financial and similar data would seem to be capable of enlargement. For example, assessed property valuations are shown over a series of years. The value of this material would be increased if this table were modified so as to show Boston's total assessed valuation, together with corresponding figures for other cities of the first-class, and all valuations reduced to a uniform basis by applying to each total the percentage of assessed to actual value. Such a table would be indicative of the city's comparative growth in wealth and would be especially interesting since the report omits a statement of the volume of the building permits issued by the city.

A far more serious lack is the entire omission of industrial data, notwithstanding the fact that Boston is one of the largest manufacturing centres in the country.

Finally, textual analysis is nowhere attempted. General summary statements, calling attention to the development and progress of the city, as brought out in the tables, would add to the value of this report and of all reports of this nature.

WILLIAM H. MAHONEY.

IN MEMORIAM.

We regretfully record the death of two honorary members of the Association. Dr. Robert Meyer, of Austria, died on the 10th of June of this year, and Dr. Archibald Blue, of Canada, on July 27.

Dr. Meyer was a Privy Councillor and at one time Minister of Finance for Austria; president of the Central Statistical Commission; honorary professor of the Imperial University of Vienna; vice-president of the staatswissenschaftliche Staats-Prüfungskommission and vice-president of the International Statistical Institute, etc. His influence on the statistical work of Austria and her dependencies was of lasting value. The memorial volumes published in celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Central Statistical Commission of Austria last year owe their excellence largely to him. He personally contributed some notable articles, among them one defining the relation between mathematics and statistics. Probably one of his latest undertakings was an article on the development and progress of statistical work in Austria, prepared for the memorial volume of this Association. Dr. Meyer was an altogether notable personage in Austrian life and will be greatly missed.

From the *Census and Statistics Monthly* for the Dominion of Canada we append the following sketch of Dr. Blue's life and activities:

"Dr. Blue was born on February 3, 1840, in the township of Orford, County Kent, Ontario, his father, a Gaelic Scotsman who died a centenarian, having come to Canada from Lochilhead, Argyllshire. Mr. Blue,